

**REMARKS**

Claims 5 through 7 and 13 through 18 are pending in this Application. Claims 5, 6, 13 and 14 have been amended, claims 1 through 4 and 8 through 11 cancelled and new claims 15 through 18 added. Care has been exercised to avoid the introduction of new matter. Specifically, claims 5, 6, 13 and 14, each indicated allowable, have been placed in independent form, and new claims 15 through 18, which correspond to previous claims 8 through 11 (each indicated allowable), respectively, depend from independent claim 13. Applicants, therefore, submit that the present Amendment does not generate any new matter issue and clearly places the Application in condition for immediate allowance by canceling rejected claims and maintaining subject matter indicated allowable. For completeness each of the imposed rejections is addressed *infra*.

**Claim Objections.**

The Examiner objected to claims 1 and 2 and 8 through 11. These objections have been rendered moot by canceling claims 1, 2 and 8 through 11.

**Claims 1 through 3 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 for lack of novelty as evidenced by Houle.**

This rejection is traversed. Indeed, this rejection has been rendered moot by canceling claims 1 through 3 and 12. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1 through 3 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 for lack of novelty as evidenced by Houle is solicited.

**Claims 1 through 4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 for lack of novelty or, alternatively, under 35 U.S.C. § 103 for obviousness predicated upon De Graffenried et al.**

This rejection is traversed. Indeed, this rejection has been rendered moot by canceling claims 1 through 4. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1 through 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 for lack of novelty or, alternatively, under 35 U.S.C. § 103 for obviousness predicated upon De Graffenried et al. is solicited.

**New claims 15 through 18.**

New claims 15 through 18 are clearly free of the applied prior art by virtue of their dependence upon independent claim 13 (indicated allowable). Indeed, claims 15 through 18 basically correspond to previous claims 8 through 11 (indicated allowable), respectively.

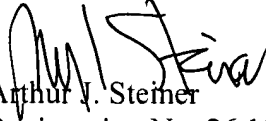
Applicants acknowledge, with appreciation, the Examiner's indication that claims 5 through 7, 13 and 14 contain allowable subject matter. Based upon the foregoing it should be apparent that all pending claims are in condition for allowance, since claims 5 and 6 have been placed in independent form, claim 7 depends from claim 6, claims 13 and 14 have been placed in independent form, and claims 15 through 18 depend from independent claim 13. Accordingly, favorable consideration is solicited.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

**Application No.: 10/705,848**

Respectfully submitted,

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